Data protection under TRIPS agreement

2295. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any steps related to data protection in accordance with Article 39.3 of TRIPS agreement;

(b) whether providing data exclusivity in agro-chemicals is being considered by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is looking into the steps to be taken by the Government in the context of the provisions of Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement for the protection of undisclosed information in respect of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. The Committee has heard the views of most of the stakeholders. No final decision has been taken by the Committee.

Committee on low procurement

2296. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high powered committee to find out the reasons for the low procurement of foodgrains for the Central pool during the current season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.